

If you are interested in the past...

Archaeologist

Archaeology is the scientific study of human culture based upon interpretation of the evidence of human activity. Using clues left behind, the archaeologist pieces together the mysteries of earlier cultures. The archaeologist interprets any remains that show evidence of having been made, used, or altered by humans. These can range from ancient Indian ruins to historic ghost towns, and from small scatters of stone tools to abandoned cross country wagon trails. A BLM archaeologist's work consists of locating evidence of past cultures, conducting detailed excavations, completing laboratory analyses, writing reports, and teaching. Besides conducting studies to understand the past, the archaeologist is also involved in saving artifacts of the past for the benefit of future generations.

To be an Archaeologist:

Bachelor's Degree in:

- Archaeology
- History
- Geography
- Related Field

Required Courses:

- History of Archaeology
- Regional Archaeology
- Theory and Methods of Archaeology
- Field School

Recommended Courses:

- Geography or Geology
- Environmental Studies
- Scientific Writing
- Surveying

If you enjoy the excitement of discovery...

Botanist

Most BLM Botanists are involved in the rare plants program. They search for new populations of known rare plants and, sometimes, discover plants that have never been documented. They study how activities on public lands affect rare plants. Botanists also conduct research to determine the condition of range or wildlife habitat, to revegetate disturbed areas, and to develop management plans for areas of environmental concern.

To be a Botanist:

Bachelor's Degree in:

- Botany
- Basic Plant Science

Bachelor's Degree in Basic Plant Science must include at least 24 semester hours in Botany.

If you enjoy working with diverse resource subjects...

Economist

The BLM Economist evaluates the economic impact of public land use on the human environment. For new public land activities, the Economist may ask: how many jobs will be created?, can the local community support additional visitors or business?, or will the activity provide revenue for the local community? Accurate answers to these and other socio-economic questions ensure that public land managers have the knowledge to make sound resource management decisions.

To be an Economist:

Bachelor's Degree in:

- Economics

Required Courses:

- At Least 21 Semester Hours in Economics
- At Least 3 Semester Hours in Statistics, Accounting, or Calculus

If you are interested in electronic equipment...

Electronics Technician

A BLM Electronics Technician works with computers, telephones, radio systems, and other electronic equipment that provide critical support to every BLM program. The Electronics Technician understands the design, capabilities, and limits of electronic equipment and systems. The Electronics Technician consistently evaluates and improves existing electronic systems. And, on a daily basis, the BLM Electronics Technician communicates with a diverse group of employees who depend not only upon the technician's expertise but also his / her ability to understand the average employee's technical needs.

To be an Electronics Technician:

Required Courses:

- Engineering
- Physical Sciences
- Technology
- Mathematics
- Electronics

Education must include a minimum of 2 years of college or technical school.

Coursework in Electronics must include a minimum of 6 semester hours.

If you enjoy math and sciences...

Professional Engineer

BLM Civil and Petroleum Engineers work with professionals from many disciplines to design and construct projects that further agency objectives. Some of these projects might include: water pipelines, spring developments, roads and trails, bridges, fences and cattleguards, well drilling and equipping, outhouses and recreation sites, small reservoirs, and erosion-control structures. An engineer works on all aspects of the project, including survey, layout, and design; contract preparation; construction inspection or supervision; and maintenance.

To be a Professional Engineer:

Bachelor's Degree in:

- Engineering

If you want to protect our resources...

Fire Management Officer

A BLM Fire Management Officer supervises or performs work to control and extinguish fires, rescue persons endangered by fire, and reduce or eliminate potential fire hazards. The Fire Management Officer also controls hazardous materials incidents; trains personnel in fire protection and prevention; operates fire communications equipment; develops and implements fire protection and prevention plans, procedures, and standards; and advises on improvements to structures for better fire prevention. The Fire Management Officer position requires knowledge of firefighting and fire prevention theory and techniques, knowledge of fixed and mobile firefighting equipment operation; and/or the ability to plan, direct, or carry out fire protection and prevention programs and operations. In addition, a BLM Fire Management Officer is responsible for the aircraft used in detecting and controlling wildland fire.

To be a Fire Management Officer:

Bachelor's Degree in:

- Biological Science
- Agriculture
- Natural Resources Management
- Related Fields

Required Courses:

- At Least 24 Semester Hours in Biological Science, Natural Resources Management, Wildland Fire Management, Agriculture, or Forestry
- At Least 18 Semester Hours of Upper Level Courses

If you would like to improve the quality of trees that grow in forests...

Forester

The BLM Forester's work includes development, production, conservation, and utilization of the natural resources of forests and associated lands. The Forester is responsible for the inventory, planning, evaluation, and management of each forest resource including timber, soil, land, water, wildlife and fish habitat, and minerals to meet both present and future demands on public lands. He or she protects resources against fire, insects, disease, floods, and erosion through the development of new, improved, or more economic scientific methods or techniques necessary to perform such work.

To be a Forester:

Bachelor's Degree in:

- Forestry
- Related Field, with 24 Semester Hours in Forestry

Required Courses:

- Management of Renewable Resources
- Forest Biology
- Forest Resource Measurements and Inventory

A Forester must have at least 30 semester hours in Science and Engineering combined OR a combination of education and experience equivalent to a Forestry degree.

If you are interested in mountain, valleys, and valuable resources...

Geologist

A BLM Geologist manages the mineral resources found on public land. The Geologist works with rangeland management specialists, outdoor recreation planners, wildlife biologists, archaeologists, and members of the mining industry to moderate the effects of mining on wildlife and vegetation, archaeological resources, and recreational opportunities.

To be a Geologist:

Bachelor's Degree in:

- Geology

Required Courses:

- At Least 20 Semester Hours Combined in Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Engineering, Computer Science, Geology, or Geography

If you are interested in natural resource protection, human health, and safety...

Hazardous Materials Specialist

Hazardous materials personnel have wide educational backgrounds, usually with specialized training in such areas as engineering, hydrology, chemistry, industrial hygiene, biology, and the environmental sciences. A BLM hazardous materials specialist deals with investigating and solving all types of problems created by the use of hazardous substances on the public lands. In addition, a hazardous materials specialist may be responsible for minimizing potential problems in the workplace while ensuring the safe reuse and/or disposal of hazardous substances. Typical projects include: landfill studies, mining operations and reclamation, pesticide application, surface and ground water studies, contract administration, emergency response, interpretation and application of complex laws and regulations, and working with the public and other agencies.

To be a Hazardous Materials Specialist:

Required Courses:

- Mathematics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Physics
- Computer Science
- Environmental Science
- Public Speaking
- Writing

A Bachelor's Degree is required.

If you like discovering how soil and water create our environment...

Hydrologist

BLM Hydrologists recommend policies and actions to minimize the effects of grazing, mining, logging, and other public land uses on water quality. Hydrologists may work with rangeland management specialists, outdoor recreation planners, soil scientists, and other professionals to prepare management plans for a basin or watershed. They may design structures in streams to slow water and reduce erosion, or they may study the effects of public recreation on erosion and plant cover.

To be a hydrologist:

Bachelor's Degree in:

- Physical or Natural Science
- Engineering

Bachelor's Degree in Engineering must include at least 30 semester hours combined in Hydrology, Physical Sciences, Chemistry, Engineering Science, Aquatic Biology, Atmospheric Science, Meteorology, Oceanography, and Water Conservation.

Required Courses:

- At Least 6 Semester Hours in Calculus
- At Least 6 Semester Hours in Physics

If you enjoy math and sciences...

Information Resources Specialist

In BLM, Information Resources Management (IRM) is the broad term for several computer-related careers. BLM employs computer programmers, systems analysts, telephone and data communications specialists, office automation specialists, and support staff.

To be an information resources specialist:

Recommended Courses:

- Computer Science
- Information Science
- Information Systems Management
- Math and Statistics
- Operations Research
- Engineering

A college degree is helpful, but not mandatory.

If you like trigonometry and astronomy...

Land Surveyor

Do you like trigonometry? How about astronomy? Do you enjoy spending time in the outdoors and visiting remote areas? Is researching old records interesting to you? How about meeting with landowners across the country? Surveying the boundaries of public lands combines all of these things. It is part mathematical, part legal, part records searching, part public relations, and in large part, hard physical work. One day, the BLM Land Surveyor may be called to Washington, D.C. to search the National Archives for 200-year-old documents. The next day, the surveyor may be camping on the Salmon River in search of old stone monuments set in the 1870's.

To be a land surveyor:

Bachelor's Degree in:

- Land Surveying
- Civil Engineering with Surveying Emphasis

Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering must include 6 semester hours of Surveying, 3 hours of Land Law, and 21 semester hours of related coursework.

OR

Candidate may have equivalent education and experience.

OR

Candidate may be registered as a Land Surveyor under the conditions defined by the National Council of Engineering Examiners (NCEE).

If you want to resolve problems on public lands...

Law Enforcement Ranger

BLM Law Enforcement Rangers play a critical role in land management because of their combined resource protection and search-and-rescue duties. Rangers must understand and convey conservation management and multiple-use principles and practices. They must know administrative, civil, and criminal law as well as individual constitutional rights. Rangers must conduct patrols, investigate crimes, manage budgets, negotiate agreements, and conduct search-and-rescue missions while responding to the needs and interests of public stakeholders, such as ranchers and farmers, miners, foresters, and resource groups.

To be a law enforcement ranger:

Recommended Courses:

- Natural Resources Management
- Environmental Science
- Social Science
- Criminal Justice
- Related Field

A college degree is preferred, but not mandatory.

Every BLM Law Enforcement Ranger is required to pass a drug test and extensive security background check.

If you enjoy math and sciences...

Natural Resources Specialist

A BLM Natural Resources Specialist fulfills both a technical and supervisory role in a wide variety of fields, including: resource management protection, wildlife, GIS, range, ecology, botany, environmental planning, customer relations and education, and recreation. The Natural Resources Specialist's work involves inventory, data collection, and resource analysis. It includes developing management plans, prescribing solutions to resource management problems, supervising staff, managing budgets and programs, as well as preparing reports. It requires a working knowledge of laws, regulations, and policies related to natural resource protection. The BLM Natural Resources Specialist draws from this knowledge and experience to communicate effectively with external organizations, from tribal governments to landowners to non-profit organizations, who have varied interests in Federal lands, resources, and programs.

To be a natural resources specialist:

Bachelor's Degree in:

- Biological Science
- Agriculture
- Natural Resource Management
- Chemistry
- Related Field

If you enjoy working in the outdoors and meeting people...

Outdoor Recreation Planner

BLM Outdoor Recreation Planners work with public land visitors in multiple settings. Outdoor Recreation Planners may manage off-road vehicle areas, white-water boating locations, wild caves, National Trails, Wilderness Areas, or developed campgrounds. They may be responsible for long-range plan development and implementation or visitor use tracking in one or more outdoor settings. In all settings, the work requires applied knowledge of economics, sociology, and other social sciences as well as the practices of natural resource conservation.

To be an outdoor recreation planner:

Related Studies:

- Recreation
- Natural Resources Management
- Sociology
- Park Management

A college degree is preferred, but not mandatory.

Applicants who qualify on the basis of graduate work must have one or more courses in Outdoor Recreation.

Consideration is also given to persons with experience or training in Visitor Services or as a Park Technician.

If you are committed to the wise use and protection of our natural resources...

Planning Coordinator

A BLM Planning Coordinator prepares land use plans for BLM resource areas. Throughout the process, the Planning Coordinator consults with BLM specialists from range and forestry, minerals and lands, wildlife and watershed, archaeology, and recreation. In addition, the Planning Coordinator meets with public stakeholders for comments. The final document—the land use plan for a BLM resource area—is the basis for future resource decisions in that area.

To be a planning coordinator:

Bachelor's Degree in:

- Community Planning
- Urban Planning
- Political Science
- Journalism
- Economics
- Related Field, such as Urban Affairs, Landscape Architecture, and Public Administration

If you are a good writer...

Public Affairs Specialist

A BLM Public Affairs Specialist is responsible for administering, supervising, or performing work involved in establishing and maintaining mutual communication between Federal agencies and the general public. The Public Affairs Specialist identifies communication needs and develops materials that inform appropriate publics of the agency's policies, programs, services and activities. He or she plans, executes, and evaluates the effectiveness of information and communications programs in furthering agency goals. In addition, the Public Affairs Specialist may advise agency management on the potential public reaction to proposed policy and the public communication requirements inherent in disseminating policy decisions.

To be a public affairs specialist:

Related Courses:

- Communication
- English
- Journalism
- Public Administration

If you are interested in plants and their many uses...

Rangeland Management Specialist

A BLM Rangeland Management Specialist manages the range plants on public land for livestock forage, watershed and soil protection, wildlife forage, and recreation uses. The Rangeland Management Specialist works with ranchers, wildlife biologists, environmentalists, and other interested parties to develop long-term management plans for sustaining healthy range plants while meeting the needs of diverse users. The Rangeland Management Specialist ensures the successful implementation and consistent evaluation of the management plans.

To be a rangeland management specialist:

Required Courses:

- Rangeland Management
- Related Plant, Animal, and Social Sciences
- Related Resource Management

Bachelor's Degree in:

- Rangeland Management
- Related Discipline

If you ever wonder why some lands are owned by private individuals and others by the public...

Realty Specialist

BLM Realty Specialists ensure appropriate use of public land through rights-of-way, leases, easements, and permits. Lands are also patented (ownership is transferred) through sales and exchanges. A Realty Specialist gathers information about the multiple uses of public lands--such as wildlife, range, and recreation—and evaluates how those uses might affect a proposed action. A Realty Specialist may work with the public, members of Congress, commercial land users, and others on issues related to public land use and disposal, land ownership, land access, property boundary surveys, and public land titles and records.

To be a realty specialist:

Recommended Courses:

- Business
- Real Estate
- English
- Natural Resources

A college degree is helpful, but not mandatory.

If you enjoy animals, fish, and plants...

Wildlife OR Fisheries Biologist

BLM wildlife and fisheries biologists work with other specialists to manage wildlife and fisheries habitat on public lands. This is accomplished through the use of water developments, fences, vegetation, nesting structures, and other improvements that will benefit wildlife. Then, the biologist determines whether the improvements have actually brought positive results or if changes need to be made.

To be a wildlife OR fisheries biologist:

Bachelor's Degree in:

- Biological Science

Required Courses for Wildlife Biology:

- Zoology
- Botany and Plant Sciences
- Wildlife Subjects, such as Mammalogy

Required Courses for Fisheries Biology:

- Animal Sciences
- Aquatic Subjects, such as Oceanography or Aquatic Botany